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RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 3103
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SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY AND TURKISH AMBASSADOR REFLECT
ON ANKARA TRILATERAL

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 1994

[1](#)B. KABUL 1506

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Peter W. Bodde, reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (S) Summary. Charge d'Affaires met with Pakistan Foreign
Secretary Riaz Khan May 7 and Turkish Ambassador Engin Soysal

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May 8 to hear their reflections on the April 29-30
Pakistan-Afghanistan-Turkey trilateral in Ankara. Both Khan
and Soysal were in Ankara for the meetings -- Khan as the
undersecretary-level negotiator and Soysal advising the Prime
Minister on Pakistan. Both reported that the atmosphere
between Musharraf and Karzai was tense at the outset, despite
a very positive and collaborative spirit at the working
level. Musharraf did deliver a long, "frank" response to
Karzai's opening statement. Musharraf took Karzai to task
when he admitted to harboring Balochistan separatists, but
the summit ended on a more positive note, with commitments to
stop the "blame game", hold another summit in late 2007/early
2008, and form a Joint Working Group on substantive issues.
Soysal concluded that Turkey was satisfied with the
trilateral's outcome but that building on this momentum
through the Joint Working Group on border issues and economic
ties would be a challenge. End summary.

Foreign Secretary Khan briefs Charge on Ankara Trilateral

[1](#)2. (C) At a May 7 meeting with Charge d'Affaires, Pakistan's
Foreign Secretary Riaz Khan gave a read out of the April
29-30 Pakistan-Afghanistan-Turkey trilateral in Ankara. Khan
traveled with President Musharraf's delegation and negotiated
the joint statement (the Ankara Declaration) after the April
29 dinner. (Note: Khan said "nothing of substance" occurred
at the dinner. End note.) Musharraf briefed Khan and the
rest of the delegation after the April 30 summit meeting with

President Karzai, President Sezer, and Prime Minister Erdogan.

¶3. (C) Khan said that Musharraf ceded the floor to Karzai at the beginning of the meeting because Karzai had initiated the trilateral by suggesting it to Erdogan last year. Karzai led off by saying that Pakistan and Afghanistan should realize the common threats they faced and leave some of the issues between them in the past. Khan quoted Karzai as saying "we're brothers". Karzai alluded to Islamabad's fear of a "Pashtunistan" as one such issue to leave behind. (Note: Pashtun nationalists use this term to refer to Pakistan's Pashtun-majority border areas that wanted independence from Pakistan at the time of partition from India. End note.)

Musharraf: Afghanistan's problems come from within

¶4. (C) Khan described Musharraf's "long monologue" response as "frank". Musharraf began by asking: "Where is the problem?" He explained that Pakistan has long suffered the fall-out from problems originating in Afghanistan and has helped millions of Afghan refugees. Musharraf argued that Karzai's simplified portrayal of Pakistan as the source of Afghanistan's problems was wrong -- the problems must also be addressed "over there" in Afghanistan. He then dismissed the outdated notion that Pakistan is worried about a possible "Pashtunistan". He added that if Karzai really thought that Pakistan wanted to destabilize and dominate Afghanistan, then there was little use in having this type of discussion.

¶5. (S) Musharraf raised the issue of Afghanistan giving refuge to Balochistan separatists. Karzai conceded that such people were in Afghanistan. He said he had approached the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to ask what would happen

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if the separatists were returned to Pakistan. The response from UNHCR was unclear, so Afghanistan decided to keep them. Musharraf replied that Afghanistan had denied the presence of Baloch separatist leaders when he had raised the issue before. He told Karzai that this turnaround exemplified how "you say something but don't mean it on the ground."

Positive ending: Stop the "blame game"

¶6. (C) Khan said that Musharraf closed by stating that Pakistan and Afghanistan should have very good relations and by quoting the famous Islamic poet Muhammad Iqbal: "If there is strife in Afghanistan, there will be strife in Asia, and if there is peace in Afghanistan, Asia too will be at peace."

Khan said that by the end of the meeting, Musharraf and Karzai agreed they should stop the "blame game" and focus on cooperation. Musharraf agreed to another Presidential meeting later in 2007 as well as the formation of a Joint Working Group of senior officials, leaving it to Turkey to make the arrangements.

Turkish Ambassador: "Satisfactory" result in Ankara

¶7. (C) Charge met May 8 with Turkish Ambassador Engin Soysal to hear his version of what transpired in Ankara. Soysal attended President Sezer's pre-meeting briefing, participated in the April 29 dinner and joint statement working session, and was actively involved in handling the Pakistani and Afghan delegations. Soysal thanked Charge for the input and suggestions post provided him in advance of the summit, saying these were helpful.

¶8. (S) Turkey's two main objectives for the summit, according to Soysal, were to facilitate a productive Pak-Afghan dialogue in an unobtrusive manner ("we didn't impose an

agenda") and to protect carefully its bilateral relationships with Pakistan and Afghanistan, despite the "asymmetry" between them. (Note: Soysal elaborated that Musharraf's relationship with Turkey is much closer than Karzai's. End note.) Soysal said that by these measures, Ankara found the summit's final result "satisfactory".

¶9. (C) Despite the tepid mood between Musharraf and Karzai at the April 29 dinner, Soysal said that the atmosphere among the Pakistani and Afghan delegations at the foreign secretary level was "excellent". This gave Soysal confidence about the prospects for the Joint Working Group moving forward. Soysal observed that the two delegations were clearly on familiar terms and worked well together. Each side had its own ideas about the joint statement (border monitoring and refugee repatriation being the main sticking points), but they resolved their differences cordially and agreed to another summit in late 2007 or early 2008. Soysal described Turkey's presence at the table as "calm, helpful, and ready to accept whatever the two sides came up with." Soysal felt that "the U.S. can't be such a quiet presence in the room" as Turkey.

¶10. (C) According to Soysal's briefing with President Sezer's advisor after the summit meeting, the atmosphere in the room was "tense" at the beginning. He said the Turks' impression was that Musharraf -- after hearing the same generalities from Karzai he had heard often before -- spoke at length because he was far better prepared to discuss policy issues in detail. Soysal said that the leaders appeared more relaxed at the lunch after the summit meeting, when the discussion revolved around foreign investment and privatization.

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Turkey committed to follow up

¶11. (C) Soysal said that Turkey "thinks there is momentum" coming out of the trilateral and is very serious about following up on the commitments coming out of the meeting. Turkey is looking for opportunities to encourage support for the Ankara Declaration, including at NATO and the OIC. Soysal conceded that it will not be easy to get the Joint Working Group off the ground. Turkey is seeking tangible steps it can take to boost Pak-Afghan economic ties -- such as projects in the border areas, disaster management, health, and Turkish Chamber of Commerce and Industry involvement.

BODDE